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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,927	07/09/2007	Ralf Pfannkuchen	59649US005	2140

32692 7590 11/30/2009
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EXAMINER

TRAN, QUOC DUC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/30/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

LegalUSDocketing@mmm.com
LegalDocketing@mmm.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,927

Applicant(s)

PFANNKUCHEN, RALF

Examiner

Quoc D. Tran

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walance et al (5,832,058).

Consider claims 1, 7 and 13, Walance et al teach a circuit and method for providing test and/or monitoring access to at least two telecommunication lines (abstract) comprising at least one bus and at least two primary branches extending therefrom (col. 4 line 56 - col. 5 line 6), at least one of the primary branches being provided with at least one switch which in a first state connects the primary branch with the bus (col. 11 lines 20-30) and in a second, normal state, when the primary branch is not in use, connects the primary branch with ground (col. 6 lines 44-54).

Consider claims 2 and 8, Walance et al teach the claimed features (col. 6 lines 42-63).

Consider claim 3, Walance et al teach the claimed features (Fig. 7).

Consider claim 4, Walance et al teach the claimed feature (col. 6 lines 50-64).

Consider claims 5 and 9, Walance et al teach the claimed feature (col. 1 lines 32-35).

Consider claims 6 and 14, Walance et al teach the claimed feature (col. 2 lines 10-12).

Consider claims 10-12, Walance et al teach the claimed features (col. 6 lines 30-40; col. 11 lines 20-30).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 9/1/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant argument that Walance et al does not disclose of the claimed "bus connected to a primary branch via a switch in one state and the primary branch being connected to ground when not in use". Accordingly, the examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant argument. In according to the MPEP, claims are given the broadest reasonable interpretation. Fig. 1 of Walance et al disclosed all the structure of the claimed "bus" 12 connected to the "switch" (CO relays) that connected to "primary branch" (i.e., any line after the switches or relays) and "secondary branch" 15. Walance improves the test accessibility by introducing a test/trunk interface to map central's office lines to test device. Test/trunk interface include interface port 41 and 43. These ports are reasonable interpreted as "bus" (port 43) and branch" (port 41). Thus, during testing (i.e., claimed first state), switch is closed for a particular line so that the tester (DATU) is connected o that line to perform testing (col. 11 lines 20-30). The test interface also includes a ground connection unit 63 that place ground condition (second state) on any leads on port 41. Therefore, Walance et al reasonably read on to the claimed features as broadly claimed.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop ____ (explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Quoc Tran** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7511**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached on **(571) 272-7499**.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2600**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Quoc D Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

November 22, 2009